

Senate Watch

A summary of today's Senate actions;
published daily when the Senate is in session.



4/17/08

CONFERENCE REPORTS

[HB 5531](#)

(Gillard)

School Aid supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2007-2008.

- The conference report was adopted [RC 245: 37 yes, 1 no]

[HB 5344](#)

(Cushingberry)

Multi-departmental supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2007-2008.

- The conference report was adopted [RC 246: 37 yes, 1 no]

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

[HB 5600](#)

(Sak)

The bill would amend the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act to do all of the following:

- Require the recommendation of the Agriculture Commission for a renaissance zone for a renewable energy facility, if the facility used agricultural crops or residues, or processed products from agricultural crops, as its primary raw material source.
- Expand the definition of "renewable energy facility".
- Increase the number of distinct geographic areas in a renaissance zone that may have no minimum size requirement.
- Allow the designation of additional distinct geographic areas if they would increase either capital investment or job creation, rather than both.
- Allow a qualified local unit to seek to extend the duration of a zone regardless of whether it had not experienced significant development.
- Allow the board of the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) to revoke an extension of a renaissance

zone's duration if increased capital investment or job creation would not begin within one year.
-- Specify requirements for a written agreement regarding the extension of a renaissance zone's duration.

- Allow the MSF board to designate up to 14, rather 13, additional renaissance zones.
- Allow the MSF board to add property to an existing tool and die renaissance recovery zone under the same terms as the existing recovery zone, if certain conditions were met.
- Specify that a business would not be disqualified from receiving an exemption because it failed to file a business tax return for a year in which it had no tax liability.

- The Senate concurred with the House amendment [RC 236: 37 yes, 1 not voting]

SB 120

(Scott)

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act (MCL 400.14j) to require the Department of Human Services to issue regular food assistance benefits two times per month to an individual who is eligible for food assistance benefits of \$100 per month or more. The department could continue to issue food assistance benefits one time per month to recipients receiving assistance benefits less than \$100 per month. The department could also continue to issue food assistance benefits to the recipient on a staggered basis based on the case ending digit. The bill would not apply to the issuance of initial food benefits, retroactive assistance benefits, or supplemental food assistance benefits.

- IE was ordered

SB 1223

(Allen)

Senate Bill 1223 would add a Chapter 8B to the Michigan Strategic Fund Act to appropriate and transfer \$60 million for the 2008 fiscal year from the General Fund to the 21st Century Jobs Trust Fund and then to appropriate and transfer \$50 million from the Jobs Trust Fund to a newly established Michigan Promotion Program to promote tourism and business development in Michigan. The funding would be intended to enhance funding beyond that included in the annual appropriation for Travel Michigan.

- The Senate concurred in the House substitute H-2 [RC 237: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 1224

(Stamas)

Senate Bill 1224 would amend the Michigan Trust Fund Act (under which the 21st Century Jobs Trust Fund was established) so the Jobs Trust Fund could receive the proceeds appropriated from the General Fund as described in Senate Bill 1225 (from tobacco settlement bond refinancing). The State Treasurer would transfer and disburse the net proceeds for the purposes described in Senate Bill 1223; that is, for tourism promotion and business development in Michigan.

- The Senate concurred in the House substitute H-2 [RC 238: 38 yes, 0 no]

HB 5865**(Ebli)**

House Bill 5865 (H-2) would add Chapter 8b to the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Act to do all of the following:

- Require the MSF board to establish a Michigan Promotion Program to promote tourism in Michigan and pay business development and marketing costs to promote business development in Michigan.
- Prohibit funds appropriated for the proposed Program from being used for salaries or benefits of any State or Michigan Economic Development Corporation employees.
- Require the Program to include agri-tourism promotion and at least one winter tourism campaign each fiscal year.
- Appropriate and transfer from the 21st Century Jobs Trust Fund to the MSF \$60.0 million in fiscal year 2007-08 for a work project to implement the Michigan Promotion Program.
- From the funds appropriated and transferred under the bill, require the disbursement of \$1.0 million in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$1.0 million in fiscal year 2008-09 to the Department of Agriculture for the export market development program and agricultural promotion and development programs.
- Require that not more than two-thirds of the remaining funds be allocated for Michigan tourism promotion and not more than one-third be allocated for Michigan business promotion.
- Specify legislative declarations, findings, and intent.

- The Senate concurred in the House amendment [RC 239: 38 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

SB 1187**(Stamas)**

The bill would revise the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) Act (MCL 207.803 & 207.805) to include tourism attraction facilities and qualified lodging facilities in the definition of "eligible business," and add a "qualified high-wage activity" to the definition of "qualified high-technology business." The act allows MEGA to enter into an agreement with an eligible business (including a high-technology business) for a credit against the Michigan business tax. SB 1187-1190 are tie-barred.

- IE was ordered

SB 1188**(Gilbert)**

The bill would amend the Michigan Business Tax Act (MCL 208.1431b) to allow a person or group of people acting collectively to enter into an agreement with MEGA for a tax credit based on qualified new jobs created as a result of winning a procurement contract offered by the U.S. Department of Defense, Department of Energy, or Department of Homeland Security. A recipient of the credit would have to create a minimum of 25 qualified new jobs.

- IE was ordered

SB 1189**(Clarke)**

The bill would amend the Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act (MCL 207.806 & 207.808) to:

oReduce, from 100 to 50, the minimum number of new jobs that a business must create or the number of retained jobs that business must maintain to qualify for a Michigan Business Tax (MBT) credit through the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA).

- IE was ordered

SB 1190**(Hunter)**

The bill would amend the Michigan Business Tax Act (MCL 208.1431) to:

oAllow certain MBT credits issued by MEGA to include the cost of health care benefits, as well as payroll (not to exceed the sum of the two), attributable to qualified new jobs, or in some cases, retained jobs.

oAllow a tax credit for a qualified high-technology business, for up to seven years, of up to 200 percent of the sum of payroll and health care benefits attributable to employees who performed qualified new jobs, multiplied by the tax rate, for the first three years of the credit, and up to 100 percent of the sum of payroll and health care benefits attributable to those jobs, multiplied by the tax rate, for each remaining year of the tax credit.

oAllow a tax credit to be issued to authorized businesses that otherwise did not meet the criteria for an MBT credit issued by MEGA, but met criteria in Senate Bill 1189 (S-3).

oSpecify that a taxpayer that failed to meet requirements for claiming an MBT credit issued by MEGA could have its credit reduced or terminated or added to its tax liability.

- IE was ordered

THIRD READING

SB 1126**(Kahn)**

Senate Bill 1126 would amend the Michigan Strategic Fund Act to require the Fund to identify, publish, and market an inventory of prime sites for the location of renewable fuel plants.

- SB 1126 was passed [RC 240: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 1128**(Richardville)**

Senate Bill 1128 would create a new act to require the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to compile and publish information about establishing an alternative fuel production facility in Michigan.

- SB 1128 was passed [RC 241: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 1129**(Birkholz)**

Senate Bill 1129 (S-1) would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to do the following:

- Delete the eight-plate limit on State-sponsored fund-raising plates.
- Require the Secretary of State to develop and issue a fund-raising plate recognizing renewable fuel.
- Allocate donation money from the plate to a proposed "Renewable Fuels Fund".

- SB 1129 was passed [RC 242: 29 yes, 9 no]

SB 1130**(Brown)**

Senate Bill 1130 (S-1) would amend the Motor Fuels Quality Act to create the "Renewable Fuels Fund" and require the MDA to administer the Fund for specified purposes, including the promotion of alternative fuel production and use, grants to improve the production of alternative fuels, and the promotion of vehicles powered by renewable fuels.

- SB 1130 was passed [RC 243: 38 yes, 0 no]

SB 1132**(Jelinek)**

Senate Bill 1132 would amend the Renewable Fuels Commission Act to do the following:

- Require the Commission to report on the source of alternative fuels sold in the State; where producers of alternative fuel located in the State sell the fuels; and the impact of alternative fuels on the State's economy.
- Delay the sunset on the Act from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2012.

- SB 1132 was passed [RC 244: 38 yes, 0 no]

GENERAL ORDERS

SB 1198**(Cassis)**

The bill would amend the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) Act to do the following:

- Increase by \$70,000 the income limits affecting eligibility for a credit available to taxpayers whose gross receipts do not exceed \$20.0 million and whose adjusted business income does not exceed a specified amount.
- Remove a restriction that allows a taxpayer to claim the entrepreneurial tax credit only for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 tax years.
- Allow a taxpayer to claim the entrepreneurial credit in an amount equal to 100% of the taxpayer's MBT liability, instead of 100% of the taxpayer's MBT liability attributable to increased employment.

- SB 1198 advanced to 3rd Reading

SB 1217**(Cassis)**

The bill would amend the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) Act to include in the definition of "purchases from other firms", for certain builders and contractors, direct material costs for a construction project under a contract specific to that project.

- Cassis substitute S-1 was adopted
- SB 1217 advanced to 3rd Reading

SB 1201**(Garcia)**

The bill would create the "Military Personnel Wireless Contract Act" to do all of the following:

- Allow a service member who was transferred, or deployed overseas, on active duty for at least 180 days, to an area not served by his or her wireless telecommunication provider, or the service member's spouse, to terminate a wireless telecommunications contract without an early termination charge.
- Require the person terminating the contract to give written notice, and document the service member's transfer or deployment orders.
- Require the person terminating the contract to return equipment acquired from the telecommunications provider and not owned by the service member.
- Authorize the Attorney General to seek civil damages for a violation of the bill, and require that the recovered money be deposited into the Military Family Relief Fund.

- Committee substitute S-1 was adopted
- Garcia 1A was not adopted
- Garcia 1B was adopted
- SB 1201 advanced to 3rd Reading

SB 1078**(Patterson)**

The bill would amend the Charter Township Act to revise procedures for the annexation of property to a city or village from a charter township. The bill also would provide for a referendum on the annexation of township territory to a city or village. The bill specifies that the annexation of any territory with 100 or fewer residents from a charter township, and the detachment of territory to a charter township, would be subject to procedures set forth in the Home Rule City Act, the General Law Village Act, and the Home Rule Village Act (as proposed by Senate Bills 1080 (S-1), 1081 (S-1), and 1082, respectively).

- Committee substitute S-1 was adopted
- Patterson 1A was not adopted
- SB 1078 advanced to 3rd Reading

RESOLUTIONS

SR 156

(Richardville)

Resolution to encourage OFIR to work with all stakeholders to facilitate the offering of insurance discounts for alternative energy vehicles in Michigan.

- SR 156 was adopted